

NOV 28 2006

PTOL-413a (05-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/755,524

First Named Applicant: John F. Bently

Examiner: Sterling, Amy Jo

Art Unit: 3632

Status of Application: Non-Final

Tentative Participants:

(1) Mike Bende

(2) Examiner Amy Sterling (fax 571-273-6823)

Proposed Date of Interview: Nov. 27, 2006

Time: 1:00 (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested: (1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video ConferenceExhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, provide brief description: OA of 8/28/06 pp. 2-3; Applicant's Fig. 1; Jabsen Figs. 1, 4, and 6

Issues to be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) 102 Rej.	1-4, 8-15, 17-24 Jabsen (4124444)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

Each independent claim 1, 15 and 24, recites inter alia, "each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges" and "the slots have a length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate", whereas Jabsen teaches the openings 26 must have slits 24 which act as means for interlocking the grid members (Jabsen at col. 4, lines 44-46 and col. 5, lines 51-57). Further, the openings 26 of Jabsen (which are somewhat analogous to applicant's slots 42) do not extend parallel to the length direction of the grid member 14, and per Jabsen preferably extend perpendicular to this direction (i.e., "opening 26 whose axis is preferably coincident with that of the grid member", Jabsen at col. 4, lines 41-43). Thus, not only does Jabsen fail to teach at least these two elements of applicant's invention, but Jabsen teaches against modifying itself to be like applicant's invention else Jabsen would not function for its intended purpose according to its own teaching. Still further, as to claims 14 and 19, they recite inter alia, "at least four orifices" where each of two pairs are particularly oriented relative to the slots, and Jabsen teaches nothing like this. Claims 21 and 22 recite, inter alia, a process and structure for using the bracket in combination with a vent cover whereas Jabsen teaches nothing of the sort and is directed to support plates for nuclear fuel rods.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on November 27, 2006.

* Agreement was reached that amendment of the claims to indicate the length dimension was longer than the width direction for the plate and the slots would distinguish over the art of record. Subject to reserving the right to due additional searching if deemed necessary by the Examiner, these amendments should also make the claims allowable over the art of record.

Michael Bently (39,605)
 (Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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